

morning several hundreds of these unfortunate foreigners had been massacred.¹ As so often happens in popular uprisings, the worse elements rose to the top • and took the lead as the revolt continued. The opening of the gaols had not improved the personnel of the crowd. While many an honest peasant was trudging home with his charter of liberty which he had won at the risk of his neck, the vilest of mankind were murdering, burning and robbing, not only in London, but in all parts of the country. But the massacre of the Flemings stands marked out by its peculiar atrocity. There is but one reference to the Rising in Chaucer's 'Canterbury Tales.' In the 'Nun's Priest's' tale he describes the farm servants chasing a fox:—

Carte's Jack Straw and his rneinie
Ne maden never shoutes half so
shrille Whan that they wolden any
Fleming kille, As thilke day was
made upon the fox.

For one victim of the mob we can feel little pity. John Lyons, who had on the Duke's return to power escaped all the forfeitures inflicted by the Good Parliament, at last paid the penalty of his frauds and public robberies. He was dragged from his own house and beheaded.² The other great London citizens, who were not notorious for inflicting injuries on the community at large, were spared. One of them, the ex-mayor Brembre, was riding by the King's side on Friday, when his bridle was seized by a brewer called William Trueman, to whom he had done some injury during his period of office three years back. The fellow upbraided him in the King's presence, and no one dared reply. Later on the brewer came to Brembre's house in the city, * with a captain of the mob, and by the power of the said captain frightened him and much disquieted all his family.' Trueman was finally appeased by a present of *SI.* 105. The power of the mob was on several similar occasions used by intriguers to settle private disputes.³

Night closed down on scenes such as these, and on Saturday morning it was too clear that the authorities had succeeded in appeasing only a part of the rebels. Many thousands were

¹ Wals., i. 462; *H. R.*, 518; *Anc. Ind.*, no. 35, skin 19 ; *Cont. Eulog**, p. 353; Froiss., ii. 472.

* Knighton, ii. 136; *Calendar of Pat. Rolls*, Blc. II., ii. 26.

³ *C. B. J2.*, 482, Rex. 39 (Ee>. p. 207); *C. B. R.* and *Anc. Ind.*, passim.